

# **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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## ***FACT SHEET***

### ***FOR DISCHARGES FROM***

### ***TANKS, PIPES, AND OTHER CONTAINMENT STRUCTURES AT***

### ***FACILITIES OTHER THAN OIL TERMINALS***

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### ***GENERAL DISCHARGE PERMIT NO. 06HT***

### ***GENERAL NPDES PERMIT NO. MGD67***

General permits are discharge permits issued for classes of discharges. These discharges are generally the result of a particular operation or treatment process and are very similar in effluent characteristics. Each general permit provides effluent limitations and conditions that the dischargers must meet, and is subject to the same enforcement actions as individual discharge permits. General permits improve the efficiency of the Maryland Department of the Environment in issuing permits to cover certain types of discharges and at the same time provide a service to the regulated community by reducing the time necessary to obtain a permit.

This general permit has been developed to address a variety of discharges from structures that contain or convey liquids at facilities other than oil terminals. Both federal (40 CFR 122) and State (COMAR 26.08.04) regulations require discharge permits for this activity. State regulations require that discharges of wastewaters and chlorinated potable water be authorized by a discharge permit whether discharged to surface or ground waters. Federal regulations address discharges to surface waters only, requiring a permit for the discharge of pollutants.

Until now, the Department has fulfilled this permitting obligation by means of individual permits. Because the discharges from each type of activity described below are respectively similar and have been regulated by almost identical permit conditions, these classes of discharges are appropriate for coverage under a general permit. This permit does not apply to oil terminals. A separate general permit for oil terminals is currently being developed.

This permit authorizes five types of discharges from non-oil terminals:

- 1) Tank bottoms include water and sludge that separates from petroleum products while in a storage vessel. This permit authorizes the discharge of treated tank bottom wastewater to surface waters only. The wastewater contains sediments, residual oil and dissolved toxic pollutants.
- 2) Water from streams, wells, and municipal supplies is used to flush or test the integrity of new, existing, or repaired tanks and pipes. Pipes can also collect water from ground water infiltration. These waters may be contaminated by residual product (from the interior surfaces), construction activity, erosion at the point of discharge, scale, anticorrosion coatings, or heat. Additionally, chlorine from municipal supplies and sediment picked up from the surface water source can degrade the discharge quality.

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This authorization includes wastewater from disinfection but not washing of these tanks or pipes.

- 3) Reservoirs, tanks, and pipes used for the storage and delivery of potable water periodically must be drained for inspection or repair. In addition, these systems are flushed to maintain water quality. Discharges from of more than 10,000 gallons per day of untreated water are also covered by this permit.
- 4) Most aboveground petroleum storage tanks are surrounded by walls or dikes to contain a spill or leak. These structures collect storm water and must be drained. While there is normally no contamination within this area, the potential for petroleum contamination exists.

This permit sets numerical limits on the concentration of the above-mentioned pollutants of concern. The limits are based on what has been demonstrated to be technologically achievable. The development and implementation of best management practices is required for all discharges from drinking water systems. In the case of tank bottoms, the permit also requires testing to verify that the discharge is not toxic to aquatic life, and if toxicity is present, the permit requires its elimination. This is a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act. This permit also contains operational requirements, such as inspection routines and erosion prevention.

A copy of the entire general permit is available to any person who desires to review the details of its terms and conditions. A copy may be obtained from the MDE website at:

[http://www.mde.state.md.us/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/water\\_applications/tanks.asp](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/water_applications/tanks.asp)

or from the Industrial Discharge Permits Division, Wastewater Discharge Permit Program, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore Maryland 21230. The phone number is (410) 537-3625.